



Susan Mosier, MD, Secretary

Department of Health & Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

DATE: August 31, 2017

TO: VFC Providers

FROM: Phil Griffin, Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention Deputy Director

RE: Fridge-tag® 2 L Digital Data Loggers

New Requirements:

In the coming weeks, all VFC providers will be required to use continuous temperature monitoring devices (digital data loggers) to monitor vaccines that will be administered to VFC-eligible children, including during routine onsite storage of vaccine, during transport of vaccine, and during mass vaccination clinics. In order to meet the VFC program requirements, the device must be a digital data logger that:

- Has an active temperature display that can be easily read from the outside of the unit
- Has a buffered temperature probe (glycol, glass beads, or similar)
- Can routinely download data on temperature readings
- Can display minimum and maximum temperatures since the logger was last checked

VFC providers will be required to record daily minimum and maximum temperatures in addition to routine morning and evening temperature readings. The daily temperature monitoring logs have been updated to accommodate this change.

All VFC providers must also continue to provide and maintain a working back-up digital thermometer that has a current and valid Certificate of Calibration Testing issued by a laboratory accredited by International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)/ Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatory body. The thermometer calibration must be tested annually (or according to the manufacturer's recommendation). At a minimum, the calibration certificate must include:

- Model/Device Name or Number
- Serial Number
- Date of Calibration (Report or Issue Date)
- Confirmation that the instruments passed testing (Instrument is within tolerance)
- Recommended uncertainty of $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($\pm 1^{\circ}\text{F}$) or less

Timeline for Shipping Digital Data Loggers:

The Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) has entered into a contract with Berlinger Group for the purchase of Fridge-tag® 2 L (external sensor) digital data loggers that will be distributed at no cost to all VFC providers in Kansas. Digital data loggers will be made available for both refrigerators and freezers. The new data loggers will be shipped directly to VFC providers beginning as early as next Tuesday, September 5th. It is expected that all data loggers will be shipped within a two week timeframe.

Naming Units:

If your facility has more than one refrigerator and/or freezer, enough devices will be shipped to the clinic so that each refrigerator and freezer housing publically-funded vaccine will have a digital data logger. For all VFC providers it will be important to name each unit that houses publically-funded vaccine so that they can be easily identified by name and serial number. We are requesting that each facility name their refrigerators and freezers according to the following directions:

The first refrigerator will be named with an “R” that indicates the unit is a refrigerator followed by an “A” which represents the first unit. So “RA” would be consider unit #1. For subsequent units they would be named “RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, etc.” The same process would follow for freezers with one slight change. The units would be designated as an “F” for freezer followed by an “A, B, C, D, E, F G, etc.” So freezer #1 would be named “FA.” The KIP will be supplying stickers for use on refrigerators and freezers so that they can be clearly marked. These stickers will be mailed from the KIP to the VFC Primary Contact at each site on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. The digital data logger will need to have the corresponding unit name written somewhere on the device (preferably with a permanent marker) where it can be easily identified by clinic and KIP staff.

Training Materials:

The Berlinger Group provides a very easy to understand training manual, quick start documents, and training videos for the Fridge-tag® 2 L (external sensor) digital data loggers.

- The training manual and Quick Start documents can be found at:
<http://www.berlinger.com/temperature-monitoring/training-support/user-manuals/>
- A series of short, easy to understand training videos can be found at:
<http://www.berlinger.com/temperature-monitoring/training-support/videos/>
 - Part 1 – Out of the box and activation (45 seconds)
 - Part 2 – How to start (3 minutes, 9 seconds)
 - Part 3 – How to change date/time and Celsius/Fahrenheit (2 minutes, 39 seconds)
 - Part 4 – How to install (2 minutes, 4 seconds)
 - Part 5 – What to do if there is an alarm (2 minutes, 49 seconds)
 - Part 6 – How to read the screen (2 minutes, 19 seconds)
 - Part 7 – Is the device certified (1 minute, 13 seconds)
 - Part 8 – How to download and understand the PDF report (6 minutes, 16 seconds)
 - Part 9 – Is something wrong with my storage unit or Fridge-tag 2 L (1 minute, 38 seconds)

Military Conversion Chart:

To assist in setting up the digital data logger, which requires the use of military time, a conversation chart has been included in this memo. The conversation chart below converts regular time to military time.

*CONVERSION CHART: REGULAR TO MILITARY TIME			
Regular Time	Military Time	Regular Time	Military Time
Midnight	0000	Noon	1200
1:00 a.m.	0100	1:00 p.m.	1300
2:00 a.m.	0200	2:00 p.m.	1400
3:00 a.m.	0300	3:00 p.m.	1500
4:00 a.m.	0400	4:00 p.m.	1600
5:00 a.m.	0500	5:00 p.m.	1700
6:00 a.m.	0600	6:00 p.m.	1800
7:00 a.m.	0700	7:00 p.m.	1900
8:00 a.m.	0800	8:00 p.m.	2000
9:00 a.m.	0900	9:00 p.m.	2100
10:00 a.m.	1000	10:00 p.m.	2200
11:00 a.m.	1100	11:00 p.m.	2300
Regular and military time use the same number of minutes per hour and they use minutes in exactly the same way. For example, 3:25 p.m. would be 15:25 (or 1525) in military time.			

Updates to Website:

On the Kansas Immunization Program website a new page will be added for easy access to this Special Bulletin, the Fridge-tag® 2 L user manual and quick start documents. There will also be a link to the Berlinger Fridge-tag® 2 L training videos. Updated paper temperature logs that can accommodate the addition of daily minimum and maximum temperature readings can also be found on the new web page.

In the coming weeks be sure to look for Frequently Asked Questions and instructions for uploading temperature readings into WebIZ.

VFC Provider Follow-Up Needed:

1. Review the training materials referenced within this Special Bulletin.
2. As the digital data loggers are received they need to be assigned to a named unit (i.e. RA, FA).
3. Contact your Regional Immunization Consultant and provide the serial number of each data logger and the corresponding unit name.
4. Set up Fridge-tag® 2 L (external sensor) digital data loggers immediately upon receipt according to directions referenced in this document.
5. Contact your Regional Immunization Consultant with any questions or concerns.

Final Notes:

The use of these digital data loggers will be REQUIRED BY ALL VFC PROVIDERS upon receipt of the devices. While the use of the Fridge-tag® 2 L digital data loggers will be required for all VFC providers, this does not prohibit any provider from using another system as well. One of the major benefits of using the new digital data loggers is the ability to upload monthly temperature logs directly into WebIZ. This will increase efficiencies for both VFC providers and KIP staff. This capability should be available by the end of September so watch for additional directions on how this process will work.

If at any time the assigned Fridge-tag® 2 L malfunctions, you are required to contact your Regional Immunization Consultant or the Immunization Consultant on call immediately so arrangements can be made to replace your unit.

After you have had a chance to review the training materials and set up the digital data loggers please notify your Regional Immunization Consultant to discuss any questions or concerns. The KIP staff will be maintaining a list of frequently asked questions to be placed on the KIP website for easy access by all. Thank you for your cooperation as we begin transitioning over to the new digital data loggers.

OPTIONAL

Purchasing Fridge-tag 2 L for Private Stock or Back Up:

Berlinger Group is extending the State of Kansas special contracted price for the Fridge-tag 2 L data loggers to any Kansas VFC provider interested in monitoring your private stock units. The cost per unit is \$99.00 and the units, along with calibration certificates are good for three years. You may also choose to purchase this as your back up thermometer.

To place a purchase order:

1. Contact Berlinger directly –
Jim Lawrence
Manager, Sales Operations
Berlinger USA
222 Turnpike Rd, Suite 3
Westborough, MA 01581
P: 508-366-0084 F: 508-366-0087
jim.lawrence@berlinger.com
2. Identify that you are an enrolled VFC Provider in Kansas
3. Request the State of Kansas contract price
4. Specify if you are purchasing the unit(s) for refrigerator and/or freezer – note that the Fridge-tag 2 L data loggers are not interchangeable for refrigerator and freezer